

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to ~~claim 14, claim 19,~~ wherein said pattern layer is printed on said working surface of said support body so as to be dotted on said working surface of said support body, so that said pattern layer is formed in a dotted pattern on said working surface of said support body.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of manufacturing the vitrified bond tool as defined in ~~claim 6, claim 19,~~ comprising:

~~_____ forming a pattern layer, as a precursor of said vitrified bond layer, in a predetermined pattern on said working surface of said support body, said pattern layer including a vitrified bond;~~

~~_____ sprinkling said abrasive grains over said pattern layer before said pattern layer is dried;~~

~~bringing protruding ends of said abrasive grains which adhere to said pattern layer, layer into contact with a flat plate, for equalizing distances over which plate such that said abrasive grains protrude from said vitrified bond layer, and layer by respective distances that equal each other.~~

~~_____ firing said pattern layer and said abrasive grains which are arranged in said predetermined pattern on said working surface of said support body.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing ~~the~~ a vitrified bond tool as defined in ~~claim 6,~~including (i) a support body, (ii) a vitrified bond layer which is formed on a working surface of said support body, and (iii) a plurality of abrasive grains which are held by said vitrified bond layer so as to be fixed relative to said working surface of said support body

and which are spaced apart from each other with spacing between the adjacent ones of said abrasive grains, wherein said abrasive grains protrude from said vitrified bond layer, said method comprising:

forming a pattern layer, as a precursor of said vitrified bond layer, in a predetermined pattern on said working surface of said support body, said pattern layer including a vitrified bond which has a specific gravity smaller than that of each of said abrasive grains;

sprinkling said abrasive grains over said pattern layer before said pattern layer is dried; and

firing said pattern layer and said abrasive grains which adhere to said pattern layer and are arranged in said predetermined pattern on said working surface of said support body, such that some of said abrasive grains having a size larger than other of said abrasive grains sink into said pattern layer by a distance larger than said other of said abrasive grains, such so that distances over which said abrasive grains protrude from said vitrified bond layer are ~~equalized~~ equal to each other.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to ~~claim 14,~~ claim 19, further comprising recycling some of said abrasive grains which do not adhere to said pattern layer, by vibrating said support body with said working surface facing downwardly, after said abrasive grains have been sprinkled over said pattern layer.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing ~~the~~ a vitrified bond tool as ~~defined in claim 1,~~ including (i) a support body, (ii) a vitrified bond layer which is formed on a working surface of said support body, and (iii) a plurality of abrasive grains which are held by said vitrified bond layer so as to be fixed relative to said working surface of said support body and which are spaced apart from each other with spacing between the adjacent ones of said

abrasive grains, wherein said abrasive grains are arranged in a lattice, at a predetermined pitch between adjacent ones of said abrasive grains, said method comprising:

forming a backing layer, as a precursor of said vitrified bond layer, on said working surface of said support body, said backing layer including a vitrified bond;

forming a pattern layer, as a precursor of said vitrified bond layer, in a predetermined pattern on said backing layer, said pattern layer including a vitrified bond;

sprinkling said abrasive grains over said pattern layer ~~before~~before said pattern layer is dried; and

firing said backing layer, said pattern layer and said abrasive grains which adhere to said pattern layer and are arranged in said predetermined pattern on said working surface of said support body.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing ~~the~~a vitrified bond tool as ~~defined in claim 1, including (i) a support body, (ii) a vitrified bond layer which is formed on a working surface of said support body, and (iii) a plurality of abrasive grains which are held by said vitrified bond layer so as to be fixed relative to said working surface of said support body and which are spaced apart from each other with spacing between the adjacent ones of said abrasive grains, wherein said abrasive grains are arranged in a lattice, at a predetermined pitch between adjacent ones of said abrasive grains, said method comprising:~~

forming a pattern layer, as a precursor of said vitrified bond layer, in a predetermined pattern on said working surface of said support body, said pattern layer including a vitrified bond;

sprinkling said abrasive grains over said pattern layer before said pattern layer is dried;

applying a paste or a slurry including a vitrified bond, on said working surface of said support body, for thereby forming a coating layer as a precursor of said vitrified bond

layer, said coating layer surrounding each of said abrasive grains on said working surface of said support body; and

firing said pattern layer, said coating layer and said abrasive grains which adhere to said pattern layer and are arranged in said predetermined pattern on said working surface of said support body.

21-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein said pattern layer is printed on said working surface of said support body so as to be dotted on said working surface of said support body, so that said pattern layer is formed in a dotted pattern on said working surface of said support body.

33. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of recycling some of said abrasive grains which do not adhere to said pattern layer, by vibrating said support body with said working surface downwardly, after said abrasive grains have been sprinkled over said pattern layer.